

RESOLUTION #2020-01

**A RESOLUTION BY THE SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL ENDORSING THE ENERGY
INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT**

WHEREAS, the Summit County Council passed a resolution on June 21, 2017, acknowledging that the transition away from fossil fuels can be accelerated through a market-driven mechanism, such as a carbon fee and dividend that would encourage and empower residents to reduce and replace their consumption of fossil fuels with renewable and other alternative energy sources through conservation, being more efficient, and choosing less carbon-intensive energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the Summit County resolution further encouraged the United States Congress to pass legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production and importation sufficient to encourage individuals and corporations to produce and use less fossil fuels and to make the transition less onerous on the economy and to consumers by returning to American households all the revenues generated from this fee; and

WHEREAS, global climate change continues to deeply affect the Summit County community through changes in weather patterns including droughts, volatile snow events, and warmer temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah is seeing record wildfires, droughts, intense storms, heat waves, inversions, and extreme weather events that are having negative impacts on the state economy; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists have issued dire warnings that systemic change must happen to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report on the impacts of global warming, warning that our planet is likely to reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations climate science body said in a monumental climate report that we have only 12 years left to make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States government released its Fourth Annual Climate Assessment in November 2018 reporting that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country, and that more frequent and intense extreme weather and climate-related events, as well as changes in average climate conditions, are expected to continue to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential benefits to communities; and

WHEREAS, conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact H.R. 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all U.S. Households in equal shares in the form of a monthly dividend; and

WHEREAS, for efficient administration, the fossil fuels fee can be applied once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, as stated in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee should be assessed to begin to lower what are now dangerously high CO₂ emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act specifies that, in order to protect low and middle income citizens from the economic impact of rising prices due to the carbon fee, equal monthly per-person dividend payments shall be made to all American households each month from the fossil fuel fees collected. The total value of all monthly dividend payments shall represent 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act encourages market-driven innovation of clean energy technologies and market efficiencies which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will, after 12 years, lead to a decrease in America's CO₂ emissions of 40 percent and an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, carbon content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to U.S. exporters of carbon fees paid, known as "border adjustments," can maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and will respond to the urgency of the climate crisis because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the fee, and already collects fees from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

WHEREAS, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the U.S. a leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century and would

provide incentive to other countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO2 emissions without the need for complex international agreements.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Summit County, State of Utah, urges the United States Congress to enact without delay, H.R. 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of January, 2020.

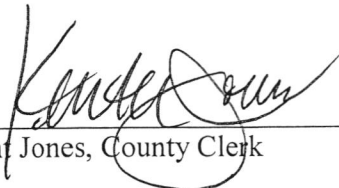
SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL
SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH



ATTEST:



Doug Clyde, Council Chair



Kent Jones, County Clerk